

Obituary: Prem Kumar Khare (1946–2009)



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Born on 1st June, 1946 at Varanasi, Professor P. K. Khare, after completing his Master Degree from Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur, started his research career from Allahabad University, Allahabad under esteemed guidance of late Professor Divya Darshan Pant, the then Head of Botany Department on various morphological and paleobotanical aspects of pteridophytes. During his research career he discovered *Damudopteris polymorpha* species from Raniganj hills. At the same time he has also discovered stomatal ontogeny of *Psilotum*, *Tmesipteris* species, *Dipteris* (*wallichii*), a rare fern. Simultaneously, he started his professional career as Lecturer in the same department in February, 1974 and continued as Reader as well as Professor of Botany. During 2007–08 he was honored with the prestigious chair of Head of the Botany Department of Allahabad University, Allahabad.

During his professional career Professor Khare guided many research scholars. During his research career he made comprehensive studies on petiolar structure, phytochemical studies of economically and taxonomically important ferns as well as ecology of Pteridophytes of Western Himalaya and Central India. While studying petiolar structure he had given guidance for

establishing petiolar characters as good tool for taxonomic identification of ferns, particularly *Adiantum*, *Asplenium*, *Ophioglossum* and *Pteris* species besides other fern species. For phytochemical studies he studied ferns from Western Himalayas and Central India. To his credit Professor Khare published over 50 research papers in *Journal of Royal Society*, *Annals of Botany*, *Canadian Journal of Botany*, *American Fern Journal*, *International Journal of Pharmacognosy* and other national journals like *National Academy of Sciences*, *Indian Fern Journal*, etc. During the year 2008 Professor Khare was graced with the deliberation of Dr. G. Panigrahi Memorial lecture at the occasion of the Indian Botanical Conference held at Allahabad. Professor Khare left this world on 3rd May, 2009 with his sweet memory to science. He is survived by his wife, one married daughter and one son who recently joined Provincial Civil Service (PPS).